



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

April 27, 2006

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **T-3**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**COPPER HILL DRIVE AT BUCKHORN LANE
TRAFFIC REGULATION
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Adopt a traffic regulation order prohibiting eastbound traffic on Copper Hill Drive from turning right at Buckhorn Lane from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, Santa Clarita area (Supervisory District 5).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The residents on Benz Road and Canterwood Drive in the City of Santa Clarita have expressed concern with motorists using their streets as a cut-through route between Copper Hill Drive and Bouquet Canyon Road. Prior to the extension of Copper Hill Drive to David Way in March 2003, Benz Road had no access to Copper Hill Drive. Once access to Copper Hill Drive was provided, the traffic volumes on Benz Road increased from a few hundred vehicles per day to over 2,000 vehicles per day. The current traffic counts indicate over 3,300 vehicles use Benz Road per day.

The City has installed centerline and edge line striping, speed limit signs, multiway stops, and weight limit restrictions in an attempt to reduce cut-through traffic on Benz Road. In addition, the City has had continued involvement with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to determine if an enforcement solution exists. However, City staff has continued to receive complaints from area residents regarding high traffic volume, inattention to speed limits, and overall disruption of their quality of life.

Recently, the City conducted an outreach to the residents of Benz Road and the surrounding streets to develop a plan to decrease the cut-through traffic volume in the neighborhood. The first step in this plan involves implementing peak-hour restrictions for vehicles turning onto Benz Road, Sue Drive, and Buckhorn Lane. The City will monitor the traffic for 4 months to see if a trip reduction to less than 2,000 vehicles per day on Benz Road and Canterwood Drive is achieved. If this reduction is not achieved, the City will consider more restrictions at the aforementioned intersections.

The City sent a letter with a questionnaire to 209 area residents who would be affected by the turn restrictions, requesting their feedback. Out of the 209 letters sent, 69 (33 percent) were in favor of the turn restrictions, 50 (24 percent) were in opposition, and 90 (43 percent) did not respond.

The City Council, after receiving additional community feedback, approved the peak-hour turn restriction for the three intersections under their jurisdiction on February 28, 2006. Consequently, in order to fully implement the community's request for the entire neighborhood your Board's adoption of the recommended regulation for Copper Hill Drive at Buckhorn Lane is needed.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This recommendation is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence, as implementation of this action will address quality of life concerns of residents.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Upon approval from your Board, the City of Santa Clarita will install the appropriate signs at the intersection of Copper Hill Drive at Buckhorn Lane. They will also install signage at three other intersections that are within their jurisdiction. All expenses will be assumed by the City of Santa Clarita.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 22101 of the California Vehicle Code authorizes your Board to implement this traffic regulation, which is required prior to enforcement by the California Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Department.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 27, 2006
Page 3

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The establishment of traffic regulations, including the installation of related traffic control devices required to notify the motoring public, is categorically exempt under Class 1-(x)7 of the Environmental Guidelines approved by your Board.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

At such time as this recommendation may be adopted, please return one copy of this approved letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

JF:kw

P:\tlpub\WPFILES\FILES\Board Letters\Benz Rd.DOC

Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel (Warren Wellen)
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Lieutenant Mike Dunkle, Sergeant
Richard Cohen)